

Illinois Educational Opportunities for Military Children Council

January 17, 2012

10:15am – 12:15pm

Governor's Video Conference Rooms

Springfield – 2nd and Capitol, 205 Capitol

Chicago – 100 W. Randolph, Suite 16-100

Dial-in 866-434-5269 Access Code 1722969#

Chicago: Amber Kirchhoff, Anne Kondziela, Sheila Chalmers

Springfield: Delio Calzolari, Michele Carmichael, Cindy Doil, Sam McGowen, Julie Smith

Phone: Lizanne DeStefano, Lorna McDaniel, Chris McIntyre, Deb Strauss

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting participants in both locations and on the phone introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of October 25, 2011 Minutes

Minutes approved with a correction to the spelling of Cindy Doil's name. Commissioner McGowen also clarified that a military installation can appoint a civilian to represent them on the Council so long as the appointment is approved by the Department of Defense (DoD).

Briefing on Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

Action items from November national meeting included updated dues structure and kindergarten entry provisions. Effective FY14, when counting the number of military children for each member state to assess dues, students will be counted based on the state in which they reside as opposed to the state to which their parents are assigned. As a result, Illinois will see a \$1500 increase. Also effective FY14, no states dues shall be less than \$2000. Effective FY13, no states dues shall exceed \$60,000.

Proposal to require that kindergarten students must have attended at least one day of class in order to continue enrollment in kindergarten was tabled. Commissioner McGowen explained that it is challenge to develop consensus around when developmentally a child is ready to begin school. Different states allow students to begin at different ages or dates during the year which can cause difficulty when transferring to a state with different cut off dates or ages. Commissioner McGowen explained that districts are concerned that if they allow children who do not meet the minimum age requirements for kindergarten to continue in kindergarten, they will have to extend the same opportunity to non-military students. He noted that on he typically bases the decision on whether a student has met certain prerequisites and can demonstrate the ability to handle content at the grade level which they have

requested to be placed. It is unclear how often or not this is a problem in Illinois because there is not an established process for collecting and reporting data. Julie suggested that school liaison officers record this type of information when an issue comes to their attention.

Action Item: School liaison officers and district superintendants will submit frequently asked questions to Amber to be compiled for review.

Delio reported that dues help to provide staff support to the Compact which includes a general counsel. Additionally, the number of member states has grown to 39. New Hampshire is considering joining. Other state council structures and sizes vary with some being housed out of veteran's offices or departments of education.

The issue of extending benefits to members of the National Guard was not addressed. It was noted that active duty Guard members are already covered by the compact in Illinois. Cindy noted that this may not be well-known and should be clearly communicated in outreach materials. Delio commented that National Guard members are not covered if they are relocating within the same state.

It was explained that there are regional breakout sessions at the National compact meeting as well as committee meetings. Commissioner McGowen chose to belong to the Rules and Policy Committee. All commissioners belong to the Compliance Committee which surveys issues on the ground. There are plans to make case studies from these local issues available online.

Review of Process for Consideration of Action Items

Following discussion of November national compact agenda, it was explained that the National compact's annual meeting agenda is formed by the Compact's working groups. These working groups meet throughout the year. In addition to the Rules and Policy Committee and the Compliance Committee, there is a Training and Promotion Committee as well as a Finance Committee.

It was agreed that moving forward the National compact agenda would be reviewed by the Council at the October meeting prior to the annual November meeting in order to provide feedback on action items.

Discussion of Outreach Materials for School Districts and Military Families

It was noted that Illinois adopted a modified version of the National compact. As a result, there is some confusion about which provisions apply in Illinois. It was agreed that outreach materials need to be developed which clearly and accurately explain what can be expected in Illinois so that standardized information is publicly available and easy to access. It was noted that many decisions regarding transfer of coursework, graduation requirements, kindergarten entry requirements, etc were left to the authority of the district. Council agreed that making it clear that this is the case would be useful information for families to have both before and during transitions. Michele mentioned that the State Board is developing a learning supports webpage which will include supports and resources for military families and Council outreach materials could be posted here.

Action Item: Legislative and statutory language associated with Illinois' compact should be reviewed and specifics should be articulated. 3

Updates on Other Business

Action Item: Council agreed to establish regular meeting schedule for the Council.

Adjournment